



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2023 – WEEK 1

Exodus 1:1-7: The Stage Is Set

A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous.

– Deuteronomy 26:5 ESV

- **Why study this ancient book?**

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. – 2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV

- It is part of God's revelation of Himself to man
 - It showcases His character
 - It illustrates His power
 - It displays His glory
 - It reaffirms His sovereignty
 - It demonstrates His faithfulness
- We worship the same God as Moses

For I the LORD do not change. – Malachi 3:6 ESV

*“For God made human beings in his own image. Now **be fruitful and multiply**, and repopulate the earth.”* – Genesis 9:6-7 ESV

*Long ago you laid the foundation of the earth
and made the heavens with your hands.
They will perish, **but you remain forever**;
they will wear out like old clothing.
You will change them like a garment
and discard them.*

But you are always the same;
you will live forever.— Psalm 102:25-27 ESV

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. – Hebrews 13:8 ESV

- What is true of the Son is true of the Father
- The God of the Exodus remains **the same**

- **The road less traveled**

- It's all about a journey
 - ...the required faith
 - ...that demanded obedience
 - ...that was anything but easy
 - ...that had a beginning and an end
- Getting Israel out of Egypt wasn't the point
- It was getting Egypt out of the Israelites
 - They were God's chosen people
 - But they had chosen to abandon God
- The goal was for them **to know and trust God**

“Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.’” – Genesis 6:1, 5 ESV

- God knew His people
 - Now, He wanted them to know Him
 - This more than a story of deliverance
 - It's a message about **redemption**
 - It's about **righteousness** and **relationship**

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. – John 17:3 ESV

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man's spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God.” – A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*

“Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God. For this reason, the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God. This is true not only of the individual Christian, but of the company of Christians that composes the Church. **Always the most revealing thing about the Church is her idea of God.**” – A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*

- What is your idea of God?
 - Is your God...holy?
 - ...all powerful?
 - ...able to deliver?
 - ...just and righteous?
 - ...loving and compassionate?
 - ...reliable and trustworthy?
 - Your God is knowable

Come and see what our God has done, what awesome miracles he performs for people! He made a dry path through the Red Sea, and his people went across on foot. There we rejoiced in him. For by his great power he rules forever. – Psalm 66:5-7 NLT

- **Exodus: The sequel to Genesis**

These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt. Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them. – Exodus 1:1-7 ESV

- Exodus and Genesis are part of a 5-book set: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy (The Pentateuch)
 - All written by Moses
 - For the people of Israel
 - **Before** the entered Canaan
- Genesis tells the “beginning” of the story
 - The creation of the universe
 - The “genesis” of the human race
 - The origin of sin and its outcome
 - The flood that destroyed a fallen race
 - The divine reboot with Noah
 - The call of Abram & the covenant
 - The fall & rise of Joseph
 - The famine & the family of Jacob
- The story of Genesis has a theme: **Be fruitful and multiply**

*So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.*

*And God blessed them. And God said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it...**” – Genesis 1:27-28 ESV*

*And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth...**”*

*And you, **be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it.**” – Genesis 9:1, 7 ESV*

*Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And **I will make of you a great nation...**” – Genesis 12:1-2 ESV*

*And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “**So shall your offspring be.**” – Genesis 15:5 ESV*

*And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for **there I will make you into a great nation.**” – Genesis 46:2-3 ESV*

*All the persons belonging to Jacob who came into Egypt, who were his own descendants, not including Jacob's sons' wives, were sixty-six persons in all. And the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt, were two. **All the persons of the house of Jacob who came into Egypt were seventy.** – Genesis 46:26-27 ESV*

- **All part of God's sovereign plan**

- He was still in the multiplying business
- He was going to keep His promise to Abram
- He would make of Abram a great nation
- But it would take time and involve tribulation

Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. – Genesis 15:13-14 ESV

- God's divine timeline
 - 215 years pass between Genesis 15 and Genesis 46
 - 70 years pass between Jacob's arrival in Canaan and the death of Joseph
 - In six decades all his brothers will be dead

But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them. – Exodus 1:7 ESV

- **The birth of a nation**

- Israel's birthplace was Egypt, not Canaan
- God miraculously multiplied their number
- God blessed them greatly
- But that blessing would become a curse

The blessing

“When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you as a special possession and you have conquered it and settled there, put some of the first produce from each crop you harvest into a basket and bring it to the designated place of worship... You must then say in the presence of the LORD your God, ‘My ancestor Jacob was a wandering Aramean who went to live as a foreigner in Egypt. His family arrived few in number, but in Egypt they became a large and mighty nation.’” – Deuteronomy 26:1-2, 5 NLT

The curse

When the Egyptians oppressed and humiliated us by making us their slaves, we cried out to the LORD, the God of our ancestors. He heard our cries and saw our hardship, toil, and oppression. – Deuteronomy 26:6-7 NLT

- God's ways are not our ways
 - His methods don't always make sense
 - His plans aren't always pleasurable
 - His promises often produce problems

“While His name is not mentioned, God is all throughout this passage. He was with them, and He was blessing them. His sovereign will was being done on their behalf. But, as the story will reveal, even the blessings of God can be accompanied by difficulty. In fact, it will become readily apparent that their fruitfulness will produce conflict between them and the Egyptians.” – Ken Miller, *A Devotional™ on Exodus*

- **Discussion questions**

What has God been teaching you on your own personal faith journey??

How did today's lesson encourage your faith in God's plan for your life?

Go back and look at the Oz Guinness quote. What comes into your mind when you think about God? Is your concept of God too small or limiting?



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FALL SERIES 2023 – WEEK 2 HOMEWORK

WEEK 2 – Exodus 1:8-2:22: Destined for Greatness

In this lesson we will examine the dramatic turn in circumstances concerning the descendants of Jacob. They were blessed by God but also suffered persecution at the hands of the Egyptians. This lesson will establish the less-than-ideal conditions facing the Israelites and how God intervened on their behalf. A major focus of this lesson will be the sovereignty of God. This was all part of His plan and the birth of Moses was another divine intervention that revealed how God was going to miraculously deliver His people from their oppressive and seemingly hopeless situation.

- Read Exodus 1:8-2:22. Write down any thoughts that jump out at you from these verses.
- Now read pages 11-24 of Ken's Devotional™ on Exodus.
- In the week one lesson, we discussed the fact that God blessed the Israelites by allowing them to multiply greatly in the land of Egypt. How do verses 8-15 reflect a rather negative outcome of their God-ordained fruitfulness?

What was it that Pharaoh feared about the Israelites and what was his bright idea in terms of a solution?

- According to verses 15-16, what was Pharaoh's next course of action?

Read John 10:10. How does this verse reflect the spiritual warfare taking place in Egypt?

Verses 17-22 appear to describe an act of civil disobedience. But what was the motivation behind the decision of the midwives? Why were they willing to disobey Pharaoh?

How did Pharaoh respond to the failure of his initial plan of infanticide? What was his next diabolical decision and how does his plan stand in direct opposition to God plan to multiply the descendants of Jacob?

- Read Exodus 2:1-10. What risk did the mother of Moses take in attempting to hide her son?

What does the passage give as her reason for hiding him?

According to Exodus 6:20, what are the names of Moses' parents?

Why do you think Moses chose to hide their names in chapter 2? Why were their identities no vital to this part of the story?

In reading through Moses' retelling of his miraculous deliverance from Pharaoh's edict, what does it reveal about God's sovereignty?

If you are familiar with the story of the Exodus, how does the recounting of Moses' deliverance foreshadow what all that is to come? Write down any similarities between his divine rescue and that of the people of Israel.

- Read Exodus 2:11-22. The narrative fast-forwards several decades and presents Moses as an adult. What evidence do you see that Moses is aware of his Hebrew heritage?

What crime did Moses commit and what could have been his motivation?

What evidence can you find in this passage that would have disqualified Moses from any kind of leadership position among the people of God?